

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W
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R 131521Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5047
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8153

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG RO
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISIT

REF: CAIRO 8051

SUMMARY. CEAUSESCU TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT WAS MEDIA EVENT, BUT WE THINK LITTLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED. DESPITE FOREIGN MEDIA SPECULATION, THERE NO EVIDENCE ROMANIAN PRES CARRYING ANY MESSAGE FROM SOVIETS OR ISRAELIS. CEAUSESCU STRESSED TO AMB THAT HE HERE STRICTLY BILATERAL TALKS. EMPHASIS APPARENTLY WAS ON TRADE AND CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS. SADAT TOLD PRESS FAHMY WILL ANNOUNCE "NEW DEVELOPMENT" (APPARENTLY POSITIVE) IN SOVIET/EGYPT RELATIONS MAY 14. CEAUSESCU ENDORSED PLO AT MEPC (BUT AVOIDED "FROM THE BEGINNING"), DENIED ANY ROLE AS MEDIATOR PLO/ISRAELI DISPUTE, AND OPPOSED FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. SADAT SAID HE HAD NOT YET READ MESSAGE TO HIM FROM PRES CARTER WHICH (ALLEGEDLY) DELIVERED MAY 12. END SUMMARY.
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1. CAIRO MEDIA MAY 13 DOMINATED BY CEAUSESCU VISIT. TWO HOUR MEETING HELD PREVIOUS DAY WITH PRESIDENT SADAT RESULTED, PAPERS BANNER, IN "FULL AGREEMENT" OVER MIDDLE EAST. NEVERTHELESS, VISIT APPARENTLY FOCUSED ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING SIGNING OF FIVE YEAR TRADE ACCORD AND TECHNICAL/ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. PRIMIN SALIM'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST, PLANNED FOR JULY,

IS EXPECTED FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. SADAT WILL REPORTEDLY VISIT IN SECOND HALF OF 1977.

2. DESPITE FOREIGN PRESS INSISTENCE THAT CEAUSESCU MAY BE HERE ON SOME SPECIAL MISSION (REFTEL), WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS NOT. NOT ONLY DO MFA OFFICIALS TELL INQUIRING JOURNALISTS THAT ME IS NOT SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEM, BUT CEAUSESCU HIMSELF WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRESS TO AMBASSADOR AT RECEPTION MAY 12 THAT HE NOT HERE FOR ME TALKS, BUT STRICTLY BILATERAL AFFAIRS. YUGOSLAV AMB SAID CEAUSESCU PUSHING GOE HARD TO USE \$200 MILLION CREDIT THAT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE 1975. (PROBLEM AS USUAL WITH BLOCK CREDITS IS THAT EGYPTIANS CAN APPARENTLY FIND NOTHING WORTH BUYING IN ROMANIA.) MILITARY PURCHASES ARE EXCLUDED, CEAUSESCU OBSERVED.

3. AT MAY 13 JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, SADAT AND CEAUSESCU FIELDDED SERIES OF QUESTIONS, ALL ON ME AND AFRICAN ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS: (A) SOVIET/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. CEAUSESCU EMPHASIZED THAT SOVIET/ EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP IS BUSINESS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT HOPED THAT THEY WOULD IMPROVE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN SOVIET ROLE AS MEPC CO-CHAIRMAN. ASKED WHAT INFLUENCE CURRENT STATE SOVIET/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS MIGHT HAVE ON MEPC, SADAT AFFIRMED HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH CEAUSESCU "FROM ASPECT OF OUR KEENNESS CONTRIBUTE TO MEPC SUCCESS AND ESTABLISH ME PEACE." HE DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AS LUKEWARM BUT EMPHASIZED THAT "WHERE ME CONCERNED, WE WILL NEVER DIFFER OVER SOLUTIONS, REGARDLESS OF THE CRITICAL PERIODS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP... I HOPE A NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL OCCUR IN THIS RESPECT. I WILL INFORM CEAUSESCU OF IT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL ANNOUNCE IT IN THE PARLIAMENT TOMORROW," I.E., MAY 14. (COMMENT: FAHMY AND GAMASY
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ARE SCHEDULED APPEAR BEFORE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MORNING MAY 14. SADAT'S TONE IN DELIVERING THIS CRYPTIC COMMENT SUGGESTED THAT FAHMY'S NEWS WILL BE GOOD NEWS.)

(B) ME SETTLEMENT. CEAUSESCU SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED ON NECESSITY WORK RAPIDLY FOR JUST, PERMANENT PEACE BASED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEHIND 1967 BORDERS, RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO INDEPENDENT "STATE" AND THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE AREA COUNTRIES. AS HE HAD DONE IN HIS TOAST PREVIOUS NIGHT (REFTEL), ROMANIAN PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED NECESSITY CONVENE GENEVA WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING PLO. (COMMENT: AS IN TOAST, NO REFERENCE TO PLO ATTENDANCE "FROM THE BEGINNING.") HE ADDED ROMANIA CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY THAT "THE REST OF THE STATES" WHICH ARE INTERESTED AND CAN HELP SHOULD PARTICIPATE AT MEPC. (COMMENT: NOT CLEAR IF HE IS HINTING THAT ROMANIA, IF DRAFTED, WOULD SERVE.)

(C) PLO. ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF HE HAD TRIED TO BRING PLO AND ISRAEL TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY BY EXCHANGING PLO RECOGNITION ISRAEL FOR

ISRAELI RECOGNITION PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO A STATE, CEAUSESCU
REPLIED ROMANIA HAS NOT RPT NOT PLAYED SUCH A ROLE.

(D) ROMANIAN ROLE. SADAT STRESSED THAT SINCE 1967, CEAUSESCU
HAS EXERTED "EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT" ON ME. "HE ENJOYS OUR
CONFIDENCE AND HAS FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL AND ISRAELIS RESPECT
HIM." HIS ROLE HAS CONTINUED BE "VERY MAJOR"; I.E.,
"PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE WITH US IN PREPARING FOR MEPC."
"WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO EXPAND REPRESENTATION AT MEPC, BUT
CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL REQUIRE THAT IT WILL MEET
WITH THE PARTIES (SIC) ONLY ..." (COMMENT: WE DO NOT
RPT NOT THINK SADAT WAS HINTING HERE THAT HE HAS DROPPED HIS
INSISTANCE ON PLO ATTENDANCE, BUT RATHER THAT HE HAS SHELVED
HIS INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT OTHER EUROPEAN STATES MIGHT
PARTICIPATE.) SADAT STRESSED NECESSITY FULL PREPARATION FOR
GENEVA, ADDING "PERHAPS I WILL BE ABLE TO SAY MORE AFTER MY
UPCOMING VISIT" (I.E., PRESUMABLY TO ROMANIA IN SECOND HALF 1977).
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(E) AFRICA. CEAUSESCU AFFIRMED HE AND SADAT HAVE "IDENTICAL
VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF AFRICA" AND THAT THESE SHOULD BE HANDLED
WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

(F) US POSITION. (COMMENT: MORNING CAIRO PAPERS HAD
REPORTED US AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUS DAY GIVEN MESSAGE TO
FAHMY ADDRESSED TO SADAT FROM PRESIDENT CARTER.) REPLYING
TO QUESTION, SADAT SAID MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED MAY 12 FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER BUT HE HAD NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO READ IT.
SADAT BELIEVES MESSAGE IS "WITHIN FRAMEWORK WE HAD AGREED ON";
I.E., CONTINUING CONTACTS IN PREPARATION FOR MEPC. "WE ARE
WAITING FOR SECRETARY VANCE", AND AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER
COMPLETES HIS TALKS WITH ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS,
WE CAN KNOW FROM HIM THE AMERICAN LINE." HE NOTED
"ENCOURAGING SIGNS" SUCH AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT
ON NATIONAL HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIANS AND HIS REMARK THAT ME
PEACE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT SETTLEMENT PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

4. ALTHOUGH CEAUSESCU NOW ON WAY HOME, STILL NO WORD ON
JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THOUGH PRESS PREDICTED ONE AND EMBOFF SAW
DRAFTING TEAM AT WORK IN MFA MAY 9.
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